

# Wabash Reflections



E – news presented by the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission (WRHCC).

Spring is just around the corner, and it's a corner we've all been anxious to peek around. Here's a brief snapshot or two from the Corridor to get you thinking:



- ❖ Carroll County – If a bridge is available in the woods, will its fall make any sound? Hint: Not likely if the Canal Society is around...
- ❖ Sullivan County – News from Fairbanks Landing: is it looking cleaner?
- ❖ Developments in Vigo County – Sugar never tasted so good!
- ❖ Notes and Quotes: Wabash Art Arrives!

## Carroll County – A Bridge Does Not Fall

The steady crew of Wabash River Heritage Trail and Canal volunteers gathered -- this time at a woods south of Delphi. The mission was to cut "blocking" for field support of the 1905 iron bridge to be moved in late February. The 6 X 8 and 8 X 8 inch timbers were methodically cut from wind damaged White Ash logs and the sawdust flew.



Steps like this were necessary before a professional crane crew could lift Pulaski County Bridge #31 off of Big Monon Ditch east of Medaryville. This blocking is needed as the lift is made and the bridge is swung over the adjacent farm field. Next, lifting cables are readjusted allowing stability for each side of the century old 76 foot long iron relic. Then disassembly begins. Ultimately each side lays flat to the ground.



Old bolts, nuts and unique two inch pins that hold the unique iron structure together were dosed with penetrating oil in January. These rusty fasteners must come off with big wrenches and lots of "elbow grease" and often the addition of heat from a torch. The challenge of taking down this 16 foot tall by 17 foot wide frame takes a special elevated man-lift work platform positioned with a long reach forklift. Safety is a must in this operation.

Good news came in the form of a \$2,500 check from Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. This check and many other private donations from \$10 to \$500 dollars have blessed this project since the first word of the pending move was made in December. A special thanks go to all that have contributed and care about the preservation of something as rare as this Winamac/Stearns Truss, a "one-of-a-kind" bridge. Though a loan of a semi flatbed trailer for transit has been made, a donor with a semi tractor that might traverse the 40 mile trip is still needed. But, with the crew from Carroll County on the prowl, it won't be long and this Stearns Truss bridge will again be carrying pedestrians, now on the Wabash River Heritage Trail near Delphi.

Carroll statistical info may be found at: <http://www.in.gov/mylocal/counties/carroll/>

## Update on Sullivan County

The Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation district, Sycamore Trails RC&D, DNR, Indiana American Power and others hosted what may have been the first DeTrash the Wabash of the season at Fairbanks Landing on Saturday March 4, 2006. Though no "proof-of-fact" photos



have been received by the Commission at this writing, the weather cooperated and it was a great day for a clean up! Fairbanks Landing is a relatively new public area being managed by the Department of Natural Resources. The landing is, to some extent, mis-named as access to the river is not, as yet, included in the area but there are

many miles of Wabash River frontage, and bank-fishing is allowed. Commission President John Gettinger, as well as his extensive network of Sullivan County friends and family, pitched in to help. Plans for the Fairbanks Landing area include possible boating camps and river access. Its almost a sure bet, given the time of year, that John used the opportunity to not only clean but to promote the Merom Chautaugua which becomes a passion for him every spring. Indeed, John reports that Sullivan County plans their grand opening of the Wabash Water Trail, occurring everywhere this 2006, to take place at the early June event (the third, to be exact) with a ribbon cutting. His plan currently calls for the ribbon to stretch completely across the river. If that comes to pass, that's a Kodak moment you've gotta have!

A "Thumbnail" on Sullivan County is at: <http://www.in.gov/mylocal/counties/sullivan/>

## Sweet Developments in Vigo County

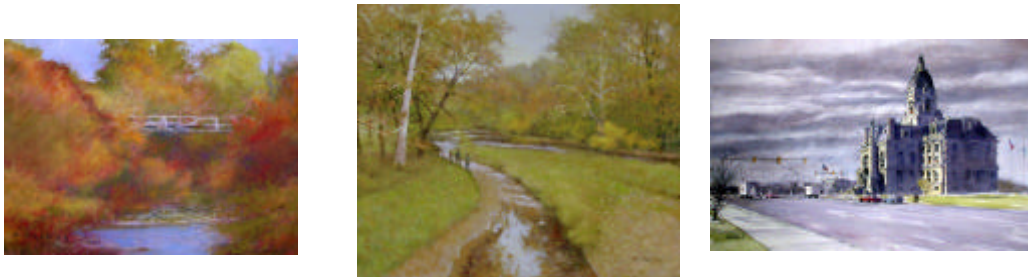
Every February, Keith Ruble (the Corridor's alternate representative from Vigo County, don't you know) can be found at one of the sweetest county parks located around the Terre Haute area (west middle Indiana if you need further orientation). The Maple Sugar Camp is located in the northwest corner of Prairie Creek Park. In January, maple trees are tapped within and outside the park. The sap is collected and routed, using plastic tubing and a pump system, to a holding tank located next to the Sugar Cabin. The Sugar Cabin is an authentic log cabin with evaporating equipment to produce maple syrup. As maple syrup is produced, it is filtered, bottled, and available for purchase. Educational tours demonstrating this old-fashioned



process of making maple syrup are given to local school children throughout February, Maple Sugarin' Days. The Sugar Cabin is open to visitors any time a sufficient amount of sap is available to fire the evaporator. During this season visitors are asked to call the park directly to find out if staff are, or are not, boiling before coming. Maple syrup is sold at the park during the season and in the park office the remainder of the year.

Vigo County's thumbnail information is at: <http://www.in.gov/mylocal/counties/vigo/>

## **Notes & Quotes** (from Executive Director Ron James):



### **River Odyssey: Two Artists Follow the Wabash**

Indiana State Museum  
March 25 – June 25, 2006

Over the past 4 years, professional landscape painters David Dale, Muncie, and Jim Faulkner, Yorktown, sketched and photographed painting subjects along the entire course of the Wabash River. Starting with a plan for 25 works each, these artists first studied the cartography and historic archives in their local Ball State University's Bracken Library. Then they journeyed through 28 counties—two in Ohio, 19 in Indiana, 6 in Illinois and one in Kentucky—all linked to the Wabash River.

Faulkner and Dale have finished more than 64 paintings & works, many of which are complimented by custom made frames. These paintings and works depict the world connected to the Wabash River, its tributaries, its people, and all its seasons. Scenes range from fishing to shopping with views of the cities, towns, farms, fields and wilderness that have touched, or been touched by, life along Indiana's state river – the Wabash. Varying in size, the traditional style of the works is also varied, from contemporary realism to tonalist and American impressionism. Descriptive narratives of the artists' experiences, while photographing, sketching and field-noting the Wabash, its tributaries and other subjects near the river, accompany the paintings.

Arrangements have been made to exhibit their oils, pastels and watercolors in an impressive list of prominent galleries, museums and display space within and near the Wabash River Heritage Corridor. Starting with the State Museum (650 W. Washington, Indianapolis), New Harmony, Vincennes, Logansport, West Lafayette and Wabash are included in the itinerary, whether with the full or partial show, depending on the space. As well, there will be stops in Richmond, Muncie, Columbus and Carmel. When the tour ends, in Carmel in late August, 2007,

the work will be sold at auction with a percent of the proceeds to support worthy projects of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission.

Watercolorist and sculptor Jim Faulkner contributions to the show may be viewed on the web at [http://www.faulknerartist.com/River\\_Odyssey/River\\_Odyssey\\_Paintings\\_Index.htm](http://www.faulknerartist.com/River_Odyssey/River_Odyssey_Paintings_Index.htm). While David Dale's oils and pastels, hardly with justice given digital restrictions, may be found at [http://daviddalefineart.com/River\\_Odyssey/River\\_Odyssey\\_Paintings.htm](http://daviddalefineart.com/River_Odyssey/River_Odyssey_Paintings.htm). While you're there, check out their philosophies of art and learn about this project. Regardless of where you see them, the art must be experienced – and its about the Wabash. Who could need more?